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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No.

09/682,627

Confirmation No. 2280

Applicant

Masakazu Karita

Filed

October 1, 2001

T.C./A.U.

3736

Examiner

Brian Scott Szmal

Docket No.

31.001-AG

Customer No.

29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

true fund

REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113

AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)

Sir:

In response to the Office action of January 21, 2004 reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, amended as follows, is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.